



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:00 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 24, 2002

- C ***In the West***, unseasonable warmth maintains high irrigation demands in *southern California and the Southwest*. Cool, dry weather persists in the *Northwest*, slowing winter grain development.
- C ***On the Plains***, cool weather is spreading southward from the *Canadian border*, slowing winter grain development in *northern growing areas*. Highs are expected to stay in the 60s degrees F today from *western Nebraska to Oklahoma*.
- C ***In the Corn Belt***, developing showers will hamper fieldwork, including corn and soybean planting, throughout the *Mississippi and Ohio Valleys*.
- C ***In the South***, warm, sunny weather fosters crop and pasture growth, with highs approaching 90 degrees F later today in the *Gulf Coast States*.

Outlook: The storm system currently sweeping through the *Great Lakes Region* will generate locally heavy precipitation over the next few days throughout the *Northeast*. Heavy snow is forecast to develop in portions of *New England*, hampering farm activities and transportation. By Friday, a new spring storm system promises to bring needed rain to the *southern High Plains*, and eventually generate significant precipitation, some in the form of snow, over broad sections of the *Plains and Midwest*. Yet another disturbance will overspread the *Pacific Northwest* during the weekend. Temperatures will remain below normal over much of the Nation through the weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 29 to May 3 depicts below-normal temperatures over the *West Coast* and across the *north*, from the *Cascade Range to New England*. Wet weather is forecast in the *Northeast*, including most of the *Corn Belt*, as well as portions of the *Rockies* and *northern Great Plains*, including *eastern Montana and the Dakotas*. Warmer- and drier-than-normal weather should dominate much of the *South*.

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